

areas of the state or country. In 1971 tobacco manufacturing was the biggest employer in Kinston. As reflected in the Lenoir County Labor Force table and the Kinston Manufacturing table, agriculture has had a decline. Future trends will probably be toward fewer and fewer people working in agriculture and those that will continue to work in this area will probably be operators of large farms. As reflected in the Kinston Manufacturing table (6), Apparel and Related Products is the third largest employer in Kinston. This area of the economy has had a national decline, however, since 1960 this type of employment has increased in Kinston. Some economist would say that if an area's economy is based largely on one type of industry and if that industry were to decline on a national basis, the effects would be readily reflected in the local economy. It should be noted, however, that North Carolina is a national leader in tobacco and in textiles, therefore, if a national decline in these two areas were to occur, North Carolina would possibly receive more gradual effects in production and in employment.

There is possibly no realistic method of projecting the labor force of Kinston for 1980 or 1990 except as a general projection as a percent of the total population. If labor force projections were made on past increases or decreases, there could be impossible situations reflected. Such a situation could be in agricultural employment. Based on past changes which show a steady decline, there would be no employment in the agricultural field by 1980 - and this would be an unrealistic situation for Lenoir County.